

The objects of the council are to foster and promote voluntary standardization in fields relating to the construction, manufacture, production, quality performance and safety of buildings, structures, manufactured articles and products and other goods.

In the international field, the council appoints members and directs activities of the Canadian National Committee of the International Electro-Technical Commission and is the member body for Canada in the International Organization for Standardization. The council co-ordinates and integrates the national and international standards and oversees the accreditation of some 350 delegates to represent Canada at over 360 international technical committee meetings each year. The council's international standardization branch is located at Mississauga, Ont.

In January 1977 the council, in co-operation with the accredited standards writing organizations, established a standards information service, with a central information and referral service at its Ottawa offices.

### Trade standards and regulations

17.4.2.2

In its consumer program, the consumer and corporate affairs department is responsible for administration of broad legislation affecting the business community. Policies and programming are determined by the consumer standards directorate, and field supervision by the field operations service.

**Hazardous products.** A product safety branch administers the Hazardous Products Act which deals with consumer goods. The act makes specific mention of products designed for household, garden, or personal use, for use in sports or recreational activities or for use by children. It also mentions without reference to end use, poisonous, toxic, flammable, explosive and corrosive products. The minister is empowered to establish mandatory standards for application in Canada. Compliance orders being enforced include the use of shatterproof glass in patio and shower doors, flammability standards for children's sleepwear and protective standards for hockey helmets. Regulations governing toys, rattles, cribs and portable car seats are designed to protect children. Other rigid specifications cover matches, charcoal, ceramics and electrical appliances.

**General commodity field.** The Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and regulations administered by a consumer fraud protection branch are designed to give uniformity to packaging and labelling practices in Canada, reduce the possibilities of fraud and deception in packaging, and control the proliferation of packaged sizes. The legislation applies to most pre-packaged consumer products and came into effect in September 1975 for non-food items and in March 1976 for foods.

Regulations under the Textile Labelling Act, in effect since December 1972, require labels on all consumer textile articles. The label must include fibre names and percentages and the identification of the dealer. The regulations also deal with misrepresentation in both labelling and advertising. The textile care labelling system of coloured symbols recommending proper care for textile products is a voluntary program. The Canada standard size system for children's garments, developed by the Canadian Government Specifications Board in conjunction with the consumer and corporate affairs department, is administered under the National Trade Mark and True Labelling Act. This system is also voluntary, although dealers must register for a licence before claiming that the garment does, in fact, conform to the standard size and before attaching such a label to the product.

Control of marking of precious metal articles is maintained under the Precious Metals Marking Act. The regulations came into force in July 1973.

**Food.** In areas of health, grading, standards and composition, the Food and Drug Act, the Canadian Agricultural Products Standards Act and the Fish Inspection Act are generally applicable. The consumer and corporate affairs department is charged with administration of the economic fraud aspects in distribution. This responsibility relates mainly to labelling and advertising in any segment of the news media.

**Advertising.** Most legislation has particular requirements to ensure against misleading advertising. The deceptive marketing provisions of the Combines Investigation Act include general provisions against misleading advertising practices.